

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action mailed October 5, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive to that office action. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-19, 23-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Bello et al, U.S. Patent 6,477,525.

Claims 47-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Colossi et al U.S. Publication No. 2004/0139061.

Claim 20-22, 42-44, 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bello and further in view of Colossi.

Claims 1-46 remain in this application. Claims 47-49 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

As required by paragraph 6 of the previous office action (i.e., the office action mailed April 21, 2006), applicant submitted a copy of each of the following references: Inside Microsoft SQL Server 2000 by Karen Delaney and Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Database Design and Implementation with the Amendment filed July 21, 2006. As such, applicant respectfully submits that there is no need to submit the references required by paragraph 7, on page 3, of the office action mailed October 5, 2006.

With respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101, the invention of claim 1 produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result, namely, reducing the size of the first database table to prevent degradation of response times when database users access the records for the instances in the active condition. Support for this explicit recitation in claim 1 is provided by at least paragraphs 3-12 and Figures 1-3 of this application. The inventions of independent claims 23 and 45 produce the same useful, concrete, and tangible result as the invention of claim 1. As such, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101.

In response to the provisional nonstatutory double patenting rejection of claims 1, 23, and 45, applicant will submit a terminal disclaimer, if needed, once the claims of co-pending application 10/670,561 are allowed.

Bello does not establish prima facie anticipation of claim 1 because Bello does not disclose "each instance having an active condition in which information about the instance is to be modified or an inactive condition in which information about the instance is not to be modified, ... creating a record in a first database table for each of the multiple instances in the active condition, ... deleting from the first table records of instances having values in the one or more fields indicative of the inactive condition thereby reducing the size of the first database table to prevent degradation of response times when database users access the records for the instances in the active condition; and creating, for records deleted from the first table, a corresponding record in a second database table."

Claim 1 is directed to a method for maintaining information regarding multiple instances of an activity, each instance having an active condition in which information about the instance is to be modified or an inactive condition in which information about the instance is not to be modified, the method comprising: creating a record in a first database table for each of the multiple instances in the active condition, each record containing a field for each of a plurality of data types, one or more of the fields in each active instance record having a value indicative of the active condition; assigning, for records of the multiple instances in the inactive condition, values to the one or more fields indicative of the inactive condition; deleting from the first table records of instances having values in the one or more fields indicative of the inactive condition thereby reducing the size of the first database table to prevent degradation of response times when database users access the records for the instances in the active condition; and creating, for records deleted from the first table, a corresponding record in a second database table.

Bello is directed to rewriting a query in terms of a summary based on one-to-one and one-to-many losslessness of joins. On page 12, the office action cites col. 15, lines 18-22 in support of the assertion that Bello teaches "deleting from the first table records of instances having values in the one or more fields indicative of the inactive condition." But the cited portion of Bello, which is reproduced below, is directed to rewriting a query to remove duplicate

common section rows from a materialized view, as opposed to deleting from the first table records of instances having values in the one or more fields indicative of the inactive condition:

If the materialized view contains duplicate rows from the common section, a query rewritten to access the materialized view typically has to be rewritten in a way that requires an additional step of removing duplicate common section rows from the materialized view.

Bello does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the duplicate common section rows are records of instances having values in the one or more fields indicative of the inactive condition. Further, Bello does not disclose "deleting from the first table records of instances having values in the one or more fields indicative of the inactive condition thereby reducing the size of the first database table to prevent degradation of response times when database users access the records for the instances in the active condition."

Bello also does not disclose "creating, for records deleted from the first table, a corresponding record in a second database table." The office action cites column 16, lines 25-30, in support of the assertion that Bello contains such a teaching. This cited portion of Bello is directed to using a "DISTINCT" operation to eliminate the effect of duplicate child-side rows when a join between the common section and the materialized view delta is one-to-many. As such, column 16, lines 25-30, does not disclose, teach, or suggest "creating, for records deleted from the first table, a corresponding record in a second database table."

For at least the foregoing reasons, Bello does not disclose "each instance having an active condition in which information about the instance is to be modified or an inactive condition in which information about the instance is not to be modified, ... creating a record in a first database table for each of the multiple instances in the active condition, ... deleting from the first table records of instances having values in the one or more fields indicative of the inactive condition thereby reducing the size of the first database table to prevent degradation of response times when database users access the records for the instances in the active condition; and creating, for records deleted from the first table, a corresponding record in a second database table." Claim 1 is, therefore, in condition for allowance.

Claims 23 and 45 contain limitations that are analogous to the limitations of claim 1 discussed above. Claims 23 and 45 are, therefore, in condition for allowance for at least reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Claims 2-22, 24-44, and 46 are proper dependent claims and are, therefore, in condition for allowance.

Further with respect to claim 2, page 12 of the office action cites column 4, lines 60-64, of Bello in support of the assertion that Bello teaches that no record of the second table is updated after being created. This cited portion of Bello is directed, however, to explaining that a materialized view may contain a summary column containing values generated by aggregating values contained in rows produced by a one-to-many lossless join. As such, Bello does not teach that no record of the second table is updated after being created. Claim 2 is, therefore, in condition for allowance for at least these additional reasons.

Claim 24 contains limitations that are analogous to the limitations of claim 2 discussed above. Claim 24 is, therefore, in condition for allowance for at least reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 2.

Further with respect to claim 3, page 13 of the office action cites column 8, lines 37-40, of Bello in support of the assertion that Bello teaches that the inactive condition corresponds to an instance of the activity being complete. This cited portion of Bello is directed, however, to explaining the three types of sets of joins that are produced by comparing a join graph of a material view with a join graph of a query. As such, Bello does not teach that the inactive condition corresponds to an instance of the activity being complete. Claim 3 is, therefore, in condition for allowance for at least these additional reasons.

Claim 25 contains limitations that are analogous to the limitations of claim 3 discussed above. Claim 25 is, therefore, in condition for allowance for at least reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 3.

Appln. No.: 10/670,276
Amendment dated December 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2006

CONCLUSION

If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: December 5, 2006

By: /William J. Klein/
William J. Klein
Registration No. 43,719

10 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60606
Tel: (312) 463-5000
Fax: (312) 463-5001
WJK/ab